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## POINCARÉ AND LLOYD GEORGE TO CONFER ON PREPARATIONS

(By Associated Press)  
London, July 11.—French Premier Poincaré will probably be invited to London immediately for a discussion with Prime Minister Lloyd George on the reparations question as it is affected by present conditions in Germany, according to official circles here.

Paris, July 11.—The French government is opposed to any immediate meeting of the allied powers to discuss the reparations situation and will only consent to such a meeting as a final step. This was made plain in official circles today, after a conference between President Dubis, of the Commission, and Premier Poincaré.

## FREEDOM OF PRESS IN MEXICO NEAR REALITY

Mexico City, July 10.—Freedom of the press in Mexico is as near a reality now as has been recorded during the past half century, according to competent observers. Contrasted with the censorship days of Haurta and Carranza, editors and correspondents are enjoying almost unprecedented liberty, and President Obregon on several occasions has emphasized that newspapers and other publications are free to go as far as they like.

The newspapers Omega and Las Noticias, the former a weekly and the latter a daily, lead the opposition to the administration and the vindictiveness which they display in almost every issue would not have been tolerated for more than one day during the Carranza regime, for instance. The more substantial newspapers of the capital spare no ink now in telling the reading public where in they think the Obregon regime is at fault and even rank misquotations of conversations with the chief executive are allowed to pass with only a mild protest.

President Obregon in one respect offers sharp contrast to his predecessor President Carranza. The present executive is much more approachable and has none of the aloofness of the former First Chief. He receives newspapermen regularly every fortnight and local reporters, many of whom have been with him on campaign, feel no hesitation in calling Chapultepec Castle by telephone to converse with the president. The newspaper interviews are extremely informal affairs, the president sitting at a little table in the centre of a circle of reporters and correspondents. Refreshments are served and quite frequently the president relaxes and tells lively stories.

## EUROPE CONSUMING SWEDISH IRON ORE

Stockholm, July 11.—Europe has increased its consumption of Swedish iron ore, a fact taken here to indicate that European industries are on the mend. The biggest iron ore mining firm in Sweden the Graengsberg Oxelösund company has exported through Narvik in 1922 250,000 more tons of iron ore than during the same period of 1921. In May alone of this year Narvik cleared 600,000 tons of iron ore, breaking all previous records. The principal buyers of Swedish iron ore are England, Belgium, Germany and the countries of Central Europe.

## The Strike Situation Marking Time Today

(By Associated Press)  
Washington, July 11.—The coal strike situation marked time today pending the decision of the operators and miners in the unionized fields as to the acceptance of President Harding's proposal for the fixing of a new wage scale by arbitration and the immediate resumption of work at the wage rates of March 31st last.

### COTTON MARKET

TODAY'S MARKET	
July	21.81
October	21.96
December	21.82
January	21.51
March	21.38
YESTERDAY'S MARKET	
July	21.83
October	21.83
December	21.71
January	21.37
March	21.28

## Ship Subsidy Bill Would Cost Three Quarters Billion

Washington, D. C., July 11.—President Harding has gone to the country to sound sentiment on the pending Ship Subsidy Bill. Unfortunately, he will not tell certain facts about the effect of this bill—he is so intensely for the measure that he will sing its praises, with none present to state to the audience the following truths which the people are entitled to know:

The bill proposes to turn over to the shipping trust \$3,000,000,000 worth of fine steel ships built by the Government, the most modern fleet in the world, most of them oil-burners. The people of the United States own these ships. The bill proposes to sell them to this group of capitalists for \$200,000,000, or one-fifth of their cost.

The bill also proposes to lend these men \$125,000,000 to recondition the ships. If they had been properly cared for during the Harding administration this would not be needed.

The bill provides for the payment of a subsidy of \$750,000,000 to the capitalists in the next ten years for using this great grab of ships for their own private gain. During three recent years the Atlantic Gulf and West Indies Steamship Company made a clear profit of 100 per cent on its shipping business without a subsidy; the published reports of the company show this, and it is merely used here as an example because it is one of the largest of American companies. During the war some ships earned their entire cost in one trip. There is no reason why any of them should fail to be self-supporting at any time.

This subsidy will be paid even to the ships of the Standard Oil Company and the Steel Corporation for transporting their own products in their own ships for their own profit. Is it any wonder they are all for Harding? And the passage of this bill greatly increases the list of calling places for the campaign fund collectors of the Republican party when Mr. Harding comes up for re-election. Is it any wonder, therefore, that Warren is for the bill?

Under this bill the army and navy transports will be abolished—sold for junk at a great loss—and the business turned over to the trust, when we already have the ships, built and paid for—not only the transports, but the merchant fleet—in our own possession. Is there a business man in the country who would make such a deal?

The bill does not require any reports to be made to Congress and no accounting as to earnings of these ships. Thus the people will never know how badly the Republican party sold them out. The bill exempts the shipping trust from the payment of all Federal taxes, providing the amount is set aside for the building of new ships—and all the time the party is claiming that

## GARVAN APPEARS BEFORE SPECIAL GRAND JURY

(By Associated Press)  
Washington, July 11.—Francis P. Garvan, alien property custodian in the Wilson administration, now President of the Chemical Foundation, Incorporated, brought to Washington today all records and books of the foundation to present to a special grand jury recently empaneled to investigate war contracts

too many ships are already built for the business being done—under a Republican administration. The bill makes no provision for regulation of freight rates on the water and creates a gigantic combination which can make rates as high as it chooses and leave the shippers helpless. Whether they will make the rates high can be determined by harking back to the open robbery of the war years.

In the Committee hearings practical steamship men admitted that the wages of our seamen do not hurt the American steamship in competition with European vessels. Their testimony showed that the difference in these wages does not exceed two per cent. John C. Seager, Jr., vice-president of the Seager Steamship Company, admitted in the hearings that there is no reason why American ships cannot compete with the world under present conditions; his and other companies are doing it. The only difficulty he saw was that some of the American companies paid very large salaries to unnecessary executives, some of them as high as \$100,000 per year, greater than that of President Harding.

The bill provides for the Shipping Board to make subsidy contracts with the shipping trust covering periods of ten years—this to prevent an effective repeal of the law, for its repeal by a new Congress would not stop the robbery of the people's treasury. The bill even fixes it so that this fund is not dependent on each Congress appropriating the money annually as is done for all other expenses of the Government.

The bill confers on the Shipping Board the most enormous and unrestricted powers in regard to selling ships, making loans and subsidy contracts and in handling enormous sums of money. The present members of the Board are rushing about the country making speeches in favor of the bill at Government expense.

The bill provides more money in the form of subsidies, by fifty per cent, than the total amount paid in subsidies, and ocean mail pay by all of the other countries of the world put together.

President Harding goes to the country on this measure and says he is ready to stand or fall with it. It seems certain that any citizen who considers these facts, taken from the minority report on the bill, will agree that the President who would support such a steal deserves to fall with the bill he advocates. The minority report was signed by Judge Davis of Tennessee, Rufus Hardy of Texas, William B. Bankhead of Alabama, Schuyler O. Bland of Virginia and Clay Stone Briggs of Texas, and is a masterly and patriotic effort to defeat the worst steal ever attempted in the history of the Government.

## THE NORFOLK AND WESTERN MEN MAY STRIKE

Cincinnati, O., July 11.—A strike of rate clerks, freight handlers, express and station employees on the Norfolk and Western railroad has been sanctioned by Grand President E. H. Fitzgerald, according to I. D. Mumby, assistant to Fitzgerald, at headquarters of the Brotherhood here today.

Cincinnati, O., July 11.—Mumby stated further that the Brotherhood headquarters had been advised that the executive board of the Brotherhood of the Chesapeake and Ohio was to present a resolution to officials of that road at Richmond today protesting against the wage cut, demanding full time for vacations. Roanoke, Va., July 11.—Not a single clerk struck at the general offices of the Norfolk and Western here at ten this morning, the time set by Chairman C. B. Lane for the general walkout according to a statement at the offices of the President of the road at ten-thirty.

## MERCHANTS LET CLERKS ATTEND THE BALL GAME THIS AFTERNOON

### MERCHANTS MEET TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION

At a called meeting of the Merchants Association this morning, the question of closing the stores for the ball game this afternoon was discussed.

Mr. J. C. Riddick, who is managing the local team, had asked the merchants to kindly close their stores a little while this afternoon, in order that the clerks and those of the force wishing to attend may do so. Mr. Riddick's reason for this, he stated, is that the proceeds from the game may be larger, which will help to pay the huge deficit he sustained in financing the league teams here two years ago.

The merchants at the meeting were all willing to help Mr. Riddick out of the loss he has had, but, in as much as the attendance at the meeting was small, Mr. Riddick suggested that the merchants, instead of agreeing to close their stores, kindly allow their clerks and any of the force who care to do so, to go to the game. This plan seemed to meet the approval of all present, and a committee of three was appointed to see the absent merchants and have the plan carried out.

### WEATHER REPORT

For North Carolina: Partly cloudy tonight Wednesday. Local thundershowers. Moderate to southerly winds.

## The Chinese of Mexico at War

Mexico City, July 11.—Chinese settlers in the state of Sonora have been engaging in a sanguinary warfare for several months and so serious is the situation they have created that a petition has been sent the federal government to order the immediate expulsion of the leaders of the two principal Asiatic factions.

The Chinese National League in Sonora has been at odds for several years with the members of Chinese Free Masonry in that state and numerous mysterious murders and other crimes are charged to the activities of these two organizations. State officials believe that a wholesale deportation of agitators will clear the atmosphere.

## INDEPENDENT OPERATORS TO DEAL WITH THOSE NOT OBSERVING PRICE AGREEMENT

(By Associated Press)  
Washington, July 11.—Representatives of operators of non-union coal mines will be called together at the end of this week to consider means of dealing with smaller operators who are selling coal at prices higher than the maximum recently reached by a voluntary agreement with Secretary Hoover, it was said today.

## RUSSIANS BEING INOCULATED AGAINST DISEASE

Moscow, July 7.—What will probably stand for some years to come as a record in wholesale inoculation against five of the most widespread and most fatal of epidemic diseases is now in progress throughout Russia as a part of the program of the Medical Division of the American Relief Administration. Ten million individuals are to be inoculated before that program is completed to give them immunity against typhoid, paratyphoid A, paratyphoid B, cholera and smallpox.

An order for 451,000 ampules of neosalvarsan is now in process of delivery. The drug is being used as a specific against relapsing fever, otherwise known as recurrent typhus, which is widely prevalent in the famine district.

Overworked and underfed physicians in the famine districts of the Volga valley, who stuck manfully to their posts during the war, fighting against almost hopeless odds the sickness and pestilence that the famine engendered, have been granted a new lease of life by the delivery of American Relief Administration food packages the funds for which were contributed by the Joint Distribution Committee following a special plea by Mr. Herbert Hoover.

American Relief Administration workers returning from Rybinsk and Jaroslav on the upper portion of the Volga River report that the peasants in that section of the valley are utilizing every moment of daylight to plant the greatest possible amount of seed grain. As the sun does not set now until nearly 10 o'clock the peasants' working day is greatly extended and planting is progressing rapidly. In the fields which were planted earlier there is a good stand of grain, and the Russians say that thus far the weather has been most favorable for agriculture, with ample rain to assure a good growth.

Lieutenant J. C. R. Hall, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Hall, of Whitehall, New York, is now in command of A. R. A. activities at Rybinsk. His working force includes one other American, Lieutenant James B. Walsh, of New York, and some 500 Russian stevedores and Russian women. His task is to ship 20,000 tons of American corn down the river Volga to Kazan, in the heart of the Volga famine area, where America will supply the starving thousands with food until the next harvest.

Two hundred and fifty families, all of whom claim American citizenship, have made application through the A. R. A. for aid in getting out of Russia and back to America, either in person or through relatives still in the United States.

Seventy-three families already have received the required papers in accordance with the Riga agreement entered into between the A. R. A. and the Soviet government before relief operations were begun. In the case of about 30 families the required formalities for repatriation are

## MORE DISORDERS REPORTED FROM THE RAILROAD STRIKE CENTERS

### CURTAILMENT OF TRAIN SERVICE AND ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT OF TROOPS REPORTED

(By Associated Press)  
Chicago, Ill., July 11.—Increasing disorders, the curtailment of train service and additional troops on duty at several trouble centers in the situation in the railroad today.

The strikers were also reported as the Clerks of the Norfolk and Western were authorized to strike at ten this morning.

Troops are on guard at Bloomington and Clinton Illinois, Parsons, Kansas and New Franklin, Mo., with other units under arms ready to entrain.

## HORSE PRESENTED QUEEN AS WEDDING PRESENT

Bucharest, Rumania, July 11.—Members of the local Jockey Club recently assembled six horses and asked Princess Marie, now Queen of Serbia, to select one as a wedding present. With the Princess came her mother, Queen Marie of Rumania, and Ilena, the younger daughter.

After seeing the horses, Princess Marie was unable to choose between two. "Well, let us present you the span," gallantly of the members and the offer was accepted.

Then, it was remembered that the day was the birthday of Princess Ilena, and she was offered a horse, which she selected and accepted. Inally, it seemed ungrateful not to offer a horse to the Queen, who is a splendid horsewoman, and this offer she accepted. Had the King been present, doubtless he would have been offered the two remaining horses.

## MANY REFUGEES ARE RETURNING TO VOLGA

Saratoff, Russia, July 11.—Thin but sunburned little groups of ragged children and adults who fled from the hunger-death of the Volga last autumn to provinces that promised bread, are now trekking back to the homes they deserted.

Daily they arrive at Saratoff, Samara, Kazan and other railway junction points in the famine belt. Some of them are in worse shape than when they departed. They found other provinces inhospitable and food scarce everywhere.

Many of the returning wanderers are being fed at American Relief Administration food kitchens. Others are struggling on as best they can until the September harvest.

bearing completion and their departure from Moscow will be a matter of only a few days.

Moscow is a great student center for European Russia. Its universities, technical and professional schools still have some 30,000 students enrolled. Of this number 4,000 are receiving one meal daily in student kitchens under the supervision of the A. R. A. The expense of this feeding are defrayed by the Students Friendship Fund of America, raised by the American Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A.